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China

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Political Information: Soviet Measures to
Quell Unrest in the Shanghai Soviet Community

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1. Following the departure of nearly 4,000 Soviet citizens for the USSR, those remaining in China awaited news of their arrival and establishment in their new surroundings. Practically all letters received from the repatriates, even former Shanghai leaders, have told of unsatisfactory work and living conditions and have requested parcels of foodstuffs. During November and December no letters were received from the repatriates, and a rumor to the effect that the local Chinese post office had destroyed all letters from the USSR was spread in order to appease friends and relatives waiting for a clarification of the situation. This rumor was quickly disproved, but the Shanghai Soviet Consulate has refused to give any explanation for the absence of letters.
2. To quell the resulting unrest in the Shanghai Soviet Community, local Soviet officials threatened that the repatriates would be isolated on suspicion of disloyalty if those remaining in Shanghai continued to complain that their friends and relatives in the USSR were being mistreated.
3. Vice Consul Chernonebov ordered the Executive Committee of the Soviet Citizens' Association to reregister the remaining Soviet population in Shanghai and the members of the Soviet Club. Both projects failed because most of the population did not appear for the registration. The proposed registration of those Soviet citizens who have expressed a desire for repatriation on March 1948 has been postponed through fear of a similar failure.
4. Consul General Khalin, Vice Consuls Chernonebov and Sergeyev, Arinichev of Torgpredstvo, and Rogov of TASS attended a meeting of Soviet leaders and urged them to revive activity in the Shanghai community. Khalin personally directed many prominent citizens such as Iakovlev and Nasarov to become active in Soviet Club and community work.
5. Chernonebov has privately said that the present disaffection in the Shanghai Soviet community is the result of Khalin's soft policy.
6. At a meeting of the Executive Committees of the Soviet Club and the Soviet Citizens' Association on 8 January 1948, Consul General Khalin introduced Vice Consul Chernonebov as the official who will from now on be directly responsible for all matters relating to the Shanghai Soviet community.

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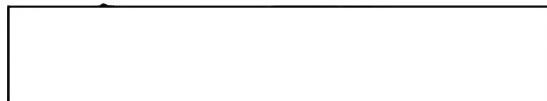
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7. Chernonenkov then presented his program as follows:

- (1) Morale is low in the Soviet community and the financial status of the Club and the Association is bad. The Soviet community will receive an order "which still can be considered as an appeal" to indulge in activity which will restore these organizations to their former positions.
- (2) Evasion of responsibilities incumbent upon a Soviet citizen will not be tolerated. Those who halfheartedly perform their tasks as Soviet citizens "had better leave our company now or they will be expelled later. The State has many facilities to prove that disloyal Soviet subjects will be punished in due time."

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